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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

# news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **No New Pot of Gold for St. Patrick's Day**

David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, has been appointed to Gov. Tom Wolf's new Transportation Revenue Options Commission to represent townships and local government in looking for ways to fund and sustain the commonwealth's vast road and bridge system.

"There's no magic pot of gold at the end of the rainbow when it comes to paying for roads and bridges," Sanko says. "I look forward to representing local government to explore not only funding options but also cost controls and mandate relief to make projects more affordable."

The commission is tasked with finding alternative funding options to Pennsylvania's gas tax, which is becoming an unreliable source for stable funding due to more fuel-efficient cars and alternate-fuel vehicles, as well as reduced driving from state COVID restrictions.

Rather than raising property taxes, local governments in Pennsylvania count on their small yearly liquid fuels transfers from the gas tax to help fund road and bridge construction and maintenance

*-more-*

needs. While PennDOT is responsible for more than 40,000 miles of roads, local governments are responsible for more than 77,000 miles of roads in Pennsylvania.

“PSATS believes it is important for state officials to recognize the partnership with local government in funding and providing a transportation infrastructure. Residents do not care who owns the road (state or local). They just want it plowed in the winter and pothole-free in the summer,” Sanko says.

“Clearly, the need for reliable, sustainable state and local transportation funding is not a problem with a quick and easy solution. However, it is a critical problem and one that needs discussion and debate sooner, rather than later.”

Transportation Revenue Options Commission is comprised of transportation, economic, and community stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. It will hold its first meeting by March 25 and submit a report of commission activities and funding options to the governor before August 1.